

# Eye Problems

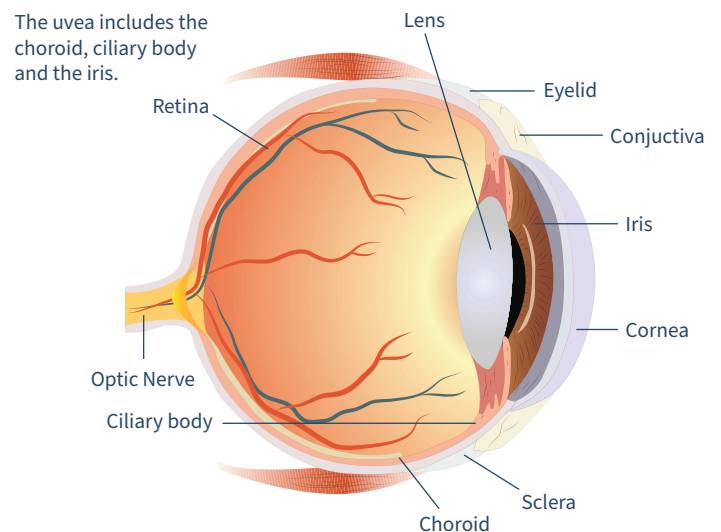
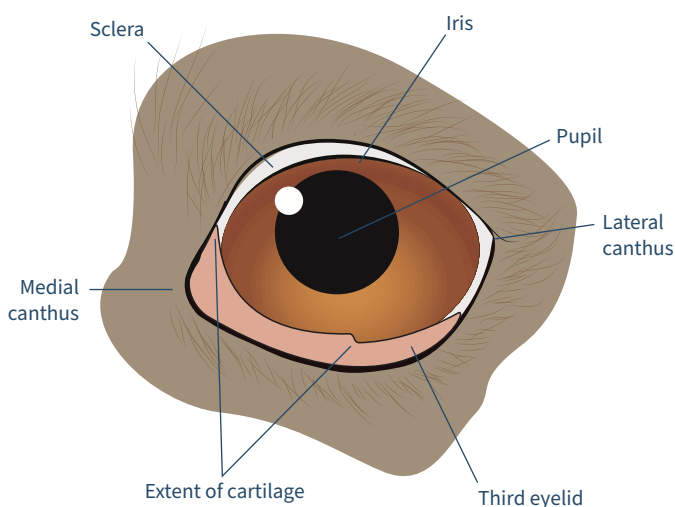
Eye conditions are common, and can be painful and/or affect vision. Common signs of eye problems include: discharge, squinting, redness, cloudiness, vision loss.

## EXAMINATION

**In addition to a general physical and ocular examination, your pet may require some/all of the following tests to help diagnose the problem:**

- Application of Alcaine eye drops:**  
To provide temporary numbness in the eye(s) during examination, reducing sensation and preventing blinking or squinting.
- Assessing nerve function:**  
With a 'menace' test.
- Retropulsion:**  
Applying light pressure to the eye to rule out infection or growths behind the eye.
- Schirmer Tear Test:**  
To diagnose 'dry eye.' A small strip of paper is placed into the eye and the tear production is measured over 1 minute.
- Focal light examination in a darkened room:**  
To assess the response of the pupils and to help localise the area of concern.
- Examination with magnification:**  
To help detect subtle changes.
- Fundus examination:**  
Assessing the back of the eye (retina, optic nerve).
- Fluorescein staining:**  
To highlight defects/ulcers on the surface of the eye, and to rule out blockage of the tear ducts.
- Tonometry:**  
To diagnose increased pressure in the eye (glaucoma) or reduced pressure (uveitis - inflammation within the eyeball).
- Looking behind the third eyelid:**  
To rule out foreign objects (e.g. grass seeds).
- Blood testing:**  
To rule out concurrent disease processes which can affect eye health (e.g. diabetes).

## ANATOMY OF THE EYE



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## COMMON EYE CONDITIONS

CONDITION	TREATMENT	MEDICATIONS DISPENSED	SURGERY/REFERRAL
<b>Cataracts</b>	Monitoring and management of any secondary lens-induced uveitis or referral to an eye specialist for surgery.	1. 2. 3.	Referral to specialist: Location: Date: Time:
<b>Cherry Eye</b>	Surgery is required.	N/A	Surgery Information: Location: Date: Time:
<b>Conjunctivitis</b>	Treatment depends on the underlying cause; options include anti-inflammatories, anti-virals, antibiotics, lubricants, calendula tea.  Chronic or unusual cases may be referred to an eye specialist.	1. 2. 3.	N/A
<b>Corneal Ulcers</b>	Most corneal ulcers will heal quickly in 5-7 days with standard treatment consisting of pain relief, antibiotic ointment/drops, and prevention of self trauma.  Some pets will require atropine drops to keep the pupil dilated.  With infected or slow healing ulcers, or other concurrent eye concerns, referral to an eye specialist may be recommended. In some cases, pets will require minor or major surgery to help the ulcer to heal.	1. 2. 3.	Referral to specialist: Location: Date: Time:
<b>Dry Eye</b>	Medical management is achieved with immune suppressing eye medications such as cyclosporin or tacrolimus. Medical therapy is life-long.  Tear replacement/lubrication is also required.  Some cases require surgery (e.g. parotid duct transposition - using a salivary duct to improve lubrication of the eye).	1. 2. 3.	Referral to specialist: Location: Date: Time:
<b>Entropion</b>	In most cases eyelid surgery is required. Some cases require treatment of the concurrent conjunctivitis.	N/A	Surgery Information: Location: Date: Time:
<b>Glaucoma</b>	Management with medications to reduce the pressure and reduce pain, with ongoing monitoring.  Some cases will benefit from referral to an eye specialist. Surgery is an option for some patients (laser destruction of some of the fluid producing cells within the eye; and/or treatment of concurrent issues such as a luxated lens).	1. 2. 3.	Referral to specialist: Location: Date: Time:
<b>Uveitis</b>	Treatment of the underlying cause, if applicable. Reducing inflammation and pain within the eye is very important, and topical steroids or non-steroidal anti-inflammatories are prescribed. Atropine drops may be prescribed to reduce spasm of the iris. Some patients require referral to an eye specialist.	1. 2. 3.	Referral to specialist: Location: Date: Time:

**PROGRESS EXAMINATION REQUIRED:** Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_



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